

Mr. O'Donnell was born in Boston and graduated from the Boston Latin School, Brown University and Suffolk Law School. He taught history at a Somerset (Mass.) High School and then took a job with Mayor Kevin H. White of Boston and ran Mr. White's successful re-election campaign.

After leaving the Speaker's office, Mr. O'Donnell was president of the Center for National Policy, a Democratic advisory group, and he was a leader in the unsuccessful Democratic Presidential campaign of Michael S. Dukakis in 1988. He was a senior partner in the Washington law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld.

Mr. O'Donnell is survived by his wife of 26 years, Kathryn; his daughter, Holly, and his son, Brendan, all of Washington.

[From the Boston Globe, Sept. 7, 1998]

KIRK O'DONNELL, 52; TOP ADVISER TO NATIONAL, MASS. DEMOCRATS

(By Beth Daley)

Kirk O'Donnell, 52, a prominent Washington lawyer who once worked with Boston's most colorful politicians, died Saturday after collapsing while jogging near his Scituate summer home.

Known for his morality as much as his dedication to the Democratic cause, Mr. O'Donnell entered the political world after a brief stint as a history teacher to work on former mayor Kevin H. White's failed 1970 gubernatorial bid.

He went on to serve as general counsel to US House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr., for eight years and quickly gained the reputation in Washington as a skilled strategist and a straight-talker.

Although he held key Democratic positions that included White House adviser and former president of the Center for National Policy, Mr. O'Donnell relished quiet time with his family at their summer home in Scituate at least as much as being near the center of power in the nation's capital.

"He was politics at its best," said US Representative Barney Frank, who first worked with Mr. O'Donnell during White's gubernatorial bid. "Talented and principled, he really worked to make the world better and fairer."

Most well-known for his advice, Mr. O'Donnell was a highly sought-after adviser to the Democratic party and served in that role for former Massachusetts governor Michael S. Dukakis's failed presidential campaign in 1988.

President Clinton said yesterday Mr. O'Donnell "was a gentleman and patriot who brought wit, common sense, and a genuine humanity to his public work and private life. He was a very good man and left us much too soon."

The son of a Dorchester investment adviser and a homemaker, Mr. O'Donnell attended Boston Latin School and graduated in 1964 with a passion for history and football. At Boston Latin, he remains in the Sports Hall of Fame for his football exploits.

After graduating from Brown University, where he also played football, he was a history teacher at Somerset High School.

With the 1970 governor's race sparking a lifelong interest in politics and law, Mr. O'Donnell taught while he attended Suffolk Law School, graduating in 1975. When then-mayor White pledged to bring City Hall to the neighborhoods—literally—Mr. O'Donnell was hired to run the Fields Corner Little City Hall and worked from a trailer parked beside Town Field. There he helped residents navigate the downtown City Hall bureaucracy while studying politics and human nature at close quarters.

Years later, while serving as one of the top strategists for the Democratic leadership of

the US House, he said, "If you can understand Fields Corner, you can understand Congress."

In 1975, he set up one of the first computerized voting lists for the White campaign. On the day of the election, in a Boylston Street office building, he checked every polling place in the 22 wards to see how light or heavy the turnout was in pro-White precincts. The White political organization had Chicago-sized ambitions, and Mr. O'Donnell harnessed its resources to provide telephone reminders and transportation to the mayor's supporters.

Mr. O'Donnell's encyclopedic knowledge of Boston politics brought him to the attention of Speaker O'Neill after White was re-elected to a third term.

Since the mayor had been considered vulnerable, his relatively easy victory prompted a call from O'Neill, who was seeking a new counsel to succeed Charles D. Ferris, the Dorchester native who had just been named by President Carter to head the Federal Communications Commission. The man who popularized the phrase "All politics is local" wanted someone at his side who knew the similarity between Fields Corner and Congress.

At first, Mr. O'Donnell was reluctant. He had left City Hall to start a law practice with his friend, Robert Holland. But the fabled O'Neill charm suggested to him brighter vistas in Washington than in Boston.

After the election of President Reagan in 1980, Tip O'Neill became the best-known Democrat in the nation. Mr. O'Donnell's aim was to prepare the House speaker strategically and tactically for dealing with the White House. The president's popularity made difficult the chore of holding House Democrats together.

Mr. O'Donnell, a gregarious man with a booming voice, spoke in a straightforward manner to House members, with the same determination as he did while dealing with the foot soldiers of the Kevin White organization.

After O'Neill retired, Mr. O'Donnell worked as head of a Washington think tank, the Center for National Policy, aimed at reviving the Democratic party. In conferences and seminars, he sought to focus the intellectual energy of a party that had consistently lost presidential elections while continuing its domination of Congress.

After he left the center, he was succeeded as director by Madeleine Albright, now secretary of state. An old Washington hand and a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Robert S. Strauss, recruited Mr. O'Donnell to his Washington law firm, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld. As a senior partner, Mr. O'Donnell represented a variety of clients, from Liberty Mutual to the government of Puerto Rico.

One lasting friendship that came from his legal work was with a partner of Salomon Brothers, now Salomon Smith Barney. After Robert Rubin, now secretary of the treasury, asked Mr. O'Donnell for political advice in Washington, a close friendship developed. He also advised another Cabinet member, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo.

Mr. O'Donnell leaves his wife of 26 years, Kathryn Holland O'Donnell, and two children, Holly of Washington, D.C., and Brendan of Scituate.

A funeral Mass will be said at 11 a.m. Thursday in Holy Name Church in West Roxbury.●

TRIBUTE TO RITCH K. EICH UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS U.S. NAVY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. COATS. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator RICHARD G. LUGAR and myself, I am pleased to offer this tribute to Captain Ritch K. Eich, United States Naval Reserve. Captain Eich retires in September after 30 years as a reservist, the last three of which he spent on active duty, representing the Navy in the Office of the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard.

Ritch Eich has been a valued member of the Indiana team since 1989, when he started work for me as a member of my Service Academy Selection Committee, screening and recommending promising Hoosier high school students as candidates for our nation's Service Academies. Three years ago, he took on the additional responsibility of serving as the U.S. Navy's Liaison Officer for the State of Indiana, working in the office of Indiana's Adjutant General. During that time, Ritch made substantial contributions to readiness planning in Indiana. He completed Disaster Preparedness Operations Plans for Indiana Naval, Marine Corps and Coast Guard facilities, and ensured a close working relationship between the Indiana National Guard and the State Emergency Management Office.

Ritch Eich's civilian job during this period was as the chief marketing, public affairs and physician relations officer for Indiana University Medical Center, where—over the course of a decade—he has helped to build a vibrant and effective health care environment for Hoosiers. According to one health care executive, Ritch had helped "define our vision, map our strategies, deliver on our promises and guide our affiliations." And for Rich, "helping Hoosiers access the best healthcare in the mid-west" was what it was all about.

In all his endeavors, Ritch Eich has demonstrated a skill and dedication that reflect great credit upon himself, the State of Indiana and the United States Navy. I feel privileged to offer this tribute to Ritch on the occasion of his retirement from the Naval Reserve. We wish him well.●

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMMY AWARDS

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the golden anniversary of the Emmy Awards telecast from Los Angeles. For fifty years, hundreds of the nation's brightest and most popular personalities have attended this prestigious event to honor television excellence.

Beyond the captivating glow of the Hollywood spotlight, the yearly awards presentation is a celebration of California's thriving entertainment industry. Television arts and production contribute billions of dollars to the California economy, generating rapid job growth,